

AUGUST 23, 1964

FOIAb3b

A View Within CIA: Can't Win in Viet

CPYRGHT

By Laurence Barrett
CPYRGHT *Of The Herald Tribune Staff*
WASHINGTON.

A ranking Central Intelligence Agency official believes there is "serious doubt" that the Communist rebellion in South Viet Nam can be quelled and says a "prolonged stalemate" might be all the West can hope for.

This conclusion, reached in a scholarly paper called "Trends in the World Situation," promises to set off a political explosion because of Sen. Barry Goldwater's determination to make the Vietnamese war a major campaign issue. The Republican Presidential candidate accuses the Administration of being timid and feckless in dealing with Communists.

Although the CIA was prepared to allow publication of the entire paper in a scholarly journal, the Administration became concerned when it learned that one newspaper—the Chicago Tribune—had acquired a copy. The newspaper was understood to be planning a story on the document today.

The State Department took the unusual step of

attempting to reduce the impact of the story by making the paper available to a small group of State Department reporters Friday night. At the same time, Secretary of State Dean Rusk reportedly said the document did not represent the Administration's viewpoint.

Mr. Rusk was said to have emphasized that the paper was the work of one man only—the author, Willard Matthias—and that it had no official status. Other sources said the paper was not an official appraisal by CIA's Board of National Estimates, even though Mr. Matthias is a member of that important body and even though other board members saw the report and approved it in general terms.

The 45-page paper, dated June 9, 1964, touched on virtually every aspect of the cold war. Its controversial section on South Viet Nam consisted of these lines:

"The guerrilla war in South Viet Nam is in its fifth year and no end appears in sight. The Viet Cong in the South, dependent largely on their own resources but under direction and control of the

Communist regime in the North, are pressing their offensive more vigorously than ever. The political mistakes of the Diem regime inhibited the effective prosecution of the war, which is really more of a political contest than a military operation, and led to the regime's destruction.

"The counter-guerrilla effort continues to flounder, partly because of the inherent difficulty of the problem and partly because Diem's successors have not yet demonstrated the leadership and inspiration necessary.

"There remains serious doubt that victory can be won, and the situation remains very fragile. If large-scale United States support continues, and if further political deterioration within South Viet Nam is prevented, at least a prolonged stalemate can be attained. There is also a chance that political evolution within the country and developments upon the world scene could lead to some kind of negotiated settlement."